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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*
**Common items for each session: multi-stakeholder dialogue**

# Multi-stakeholder dialogue

## Note by the Secretary-General

**Addendum**

## Discussion paper contributed by the forest workers and trade unions major group**

*Summary*

Deforestation and other forms of unsustainable forest management are problems with social root causes. Policies developed to promote sustainable forest management will fail to achieve their objectives if they do not recognize the root causes and attempt to address them.

A first step forward would be to integrate the International Labour Organization (ILO) core labour standards into all sustainable forest management national forest programmes and forest certification instruments. Additionally, increasing ILO involvement in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests provides added value. Finally, a logical response to the social causes plaguing forestry involves actions that seek to re-establish the employment relationship where it is broken and establish it where it has not existed. Such actions would seek to increase the value and value-added activity of forestry within the economy in such a way as to increase the amount of wealth creation that remains in forest-dependent communities for forest-dependent workers and their families.

* E/CN.18/2003/1.
** Prepared by the International Federation of Building and Wood Workers.

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# I. Introduction

1. The forest workers and trade unions major group has been increasingly active in promoting sustainable forest management and reducing deforestation. The International Federation of Building and Wood Workers (IFBWW), representing forestry, wood and construction workers, and the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Association (IUF), representing agricultural and plantation workers, have been in the forefront of the union movement to promote sustainable forestry and plantation work based on attacking the primary causes of deforestation, desertification, and non-sustainable forest and plantation management.

# II. Background

2. The causes of the deterioration of forest cover and forest health around the world are social. One of the primary causes of deforestation is poverty. For the poor, forests offer a cornucopia of resources necessary for survival. Deforestation results from:

- The conversion of land from forest uses to agriculture. In many tropical areas, the agricultural land is abandoned after three to four years resulting in abandoned forests.
- Non-commercial harvesting, where most of the wood is used for subsistence activities, such as cooking, shelter and heat.
- Urbanization, where land is permanently removed from forest uses and converted to urban uses.
- Commercial exploitation not based on sustainable forest management programmes. Wealth from commercial forestry activity tends to accrue to the better-off segments of society.

3. Deforestation is most concentrated in the developing countries and tropical forests, where poverty is most concentrated. Most international attention has been focused on protecting tropical forests.

4. Against this backdrop, numerous countries have tried implementing harvesting bans to protect their forests. In many instances, those countries that have attempted to protect their forests by creating legislation to ban activity have failed to stop deforestation, since the conversion from forestland to agricultural land continues unabated. Where harvest bans aim to curtail economic forest exploitation, the forestry activity simply continues, but it occurs as illegal logging. Many of these logging bans have been driven by pressure from international institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund. Examples exist where developing countries were pressured to enforce logging bans in order to obtain refinancing of loans, only to be pressured to support export-based harvesting a few years later. Neither banning harvest nor promoting log exports addresses the social component of unsustainable forest management and both approaches can and do cause considerable disruption to fragile forest economies.

5. Harvesting bans are extremely crude public policy devices and frequently give workers the option of obeying the law and facing critical survival issues or continuing their survival strategy and risking the penalties of legal non-compliance.

6. Likewise a strong environmental NGO movement and many industry associations have focused a great deal of their attention on the concept of sustainable forest certification. These voluntary certification schemes have far more areas of certified forest in developed countries than in developing countries and, despite efforts to the contrary, the amount of developed country area covered by such schemes is growing at a rate much faster than the tropical areas, which were the initial targeted areas. While a valuable tool to promote the use of sustainably managed wood products, they have yet to deliver an economic premium to any in the forest products chain of production.

7. The role that certification schemes play in promoting demand for sustainably managed wood products is an important one, since increased global demand will promote higher prices for landowners and, at least in theory, provide a potential for higher wages for all workers in the forest production value chain. Unfortunately, the lack of power of most forestry workers is a substantial deterrent to any trickle-down benefit actually reaching those workers most in need.

8. In addition, the advent of numerous schemes has created competition within the commercial user community, creating confusion and diverting resources from the social dimension of deforestation. Instead, resources have been allocated to fight for market share of forest acreage certified by some certification schemes.

9. The failure of the various certification schemes to develop mutually agreed-upon criteria for sustainable forest management has led many governmental agencies to adopt environmental policies such as logging bans and adverse taxation policies, which unintentionally aggravate the social causes of deforestation, especially in developing countries. Few Governments have been directly involved in certification schemes, although, recently, more Governments are recognizing the need to promote sound economic values in their national forest programmes in order to support the market forces necessary to make forestry an attractive option.

10. Even in rural areas of developed countries, poverty and deteriorating economic standards of living are sources of non-sustainable forestry activity. Here, as well as in the developing countries, informal and disguised forest work contributes to deforestation and improper forest management techniques. Without a formal employment relationship or the regulations and training requirements accompanying such a relationship, even the best-designed forest management plan faces non-compliance. National sustainable forest management plans may fail because those on the ground doing the harvesting are unaware or economically unable or unwilling to follow the forest plan. This is especially acute where pay systems for commercial forestry are based on piece-rates.

11. One response by Governments is to attempt to allocate more resources to law enforcement activity. That does not take into account the fact that forest workers must choose between eating and obeying the law. As market liberalization reforms impose unrealistic and destructive competitive pressures on employers in both developed and developing countries, more jobs are marginalized and the informal sector engaged in forestry activity grows. This results in less control of forest practices on the ground by private sector multinational corporations and

Governments, regardless of policy statements or sustainable forest management plans. The rapid rise of contract labour in the forest sector has transferred millions of dollars of potential revenues from Governments (in the form of lost tax revenue), from forest-dependent communities and from the forestry workforce to corporate stockholders and international financial institutions. Informalization of the forestry workforce also promotes unsustainable management practices at all levels of forest management.

12. Neo-liberal structural adjustment programmes undermine social protections by fostering market pressures that weaken the employment relationship in the forestry sector. This happens primarily through the contracting out of work previously done by employees. This has the effect of denying these workers (former employees, now independent contractors) the protections of ILO core labour standards, even in countries that have adopted the standards. Involuntarily, self-employed persons have few options to seek enforcement of ILO core labour standards or the power to bargain for better conditions of work. The involuntarily self-employed in forestry also suffer from higher occupational injury rates and are rarely covered by retirement programmes, raising the likelihood of future social burdens on already overstressed government resources.

13. Unfortunately, structural readjustment programmes frequently create economic situations that force even Governments to contribute to the poverty of rural forest-dependent communities. When Governments seek to cut costs by adopting procurement policies that promote the deterioration of the employment relationship and when they engage directly in contracting work out, they contribute to the shift of capital from forest-dependent areas to global institutions. This frequently happens when national forestry services are contracted out to private vendors. In developed countries (Germany and the United States of America, for example) and most developing countries this results in a decline in the knowledge, skills and abilities of the forestry workforce. Incidentally, this also causes a substantial decline in socially beneficial forest research.

14. Until social standards are incorporated into all certification schemes and social and economic protection extended to all citizens, rather than just to a minority of employees in the formal economy, the objectives of the United Nations Forum on Forests, as well as the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, will not be attained in this sector.

15. Extending social protections, such as ILO core conventions, social security schemes, and occupational health and safety legislation to forest workers currently not covered is an important method for ensuring that a greater proportion of the wealth created by forest activities remains in the rural forest-dependent communities. It is also necessary to increase the economic value of forest resources (commercial and non-commercial). Governments can assist in this process by developing procurement policies that provide incentives for the use of wood products from certified forests. Tools, such as carbon sequestration, aimed at developing markets for forest values and products that do not now exist could also be a source of wealth for forest communities. It seems that the sophistication required for such devices may mean that these may also yield benefits that fail to trickle down to the forest workforce.

## III. Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action by global union federations

16. The unions' approach to the issues included in the third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (economic aspects of forests, forest health and productivity and maintaining forest cover) is based on attacking the social root causes of deforestation and unsustainable forest management. It is difficult, therefore, to describe union programmes within the three categories listed on the multi-year programme of work for the United Nations Forum on Forests. Instead, reported below are the trade union programme elements that most closely approximate the IPF/IFF proposals. Following each item is a parenthetical listing as to which category the item fits best within the framework of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The programme elements are:

(a) Working with the private sector to adopt global framework agreements that require sustainable development and sustainable forest management through private sector action and voluntary sustainable forestry certification schemes targeted to developing countries. This work has focused on the development of social standards as a required component of sustainable forest management. This includes extending ILO core labour standards to all workers in the forest products value chain of multinational corporations with global framework agreements with global union federations. (Economic aspects, Maintaining forest cover);

(b) Assisting countries in the promotion of policies to secure land tenure for local communities aimed at fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of forests through local union capacity-building and through direct action with local tribes and communities to create community and joint tribal/union forestry ventures. (Economic aspects, Forest productivity, and Maintaining forest cover);

(c) Assisting global union federations affiliated labour unions to develop policies and capacity to promote sustainable forest management in ecosystems affected by desertification and drought. This is being accomplished by working with unions in areas affected by desertification in Asia and through the development of community forestry projects in Kenya, Burkina Faso, and Ghana. (Economic aspects, Maintaining forest cover);

(d) Education of union members globally as to the criteria of sustainable forest management and facilitating their active participation in the design of national forest programmes. This also enables national unions to participate in the development of criteria for the various labelling schemes. Furthermore, it enables trade unions to promote national legislation designed to assist communities and forest-dependent peoples to retain a larger percentage of the wealth created by forests. This includes opposing trade and restructuring policies that promote poverty in rural areas and that act to reduce financial resources available to forest-dependent communities. (Economic aspects, Forest health and productivity);

(e) Through the Global Forestry Programme the International Federation of Building and Wood Workers acts annually to transfer approximately 65 per cent of its funding to developing countries. This occurs through capacity development and the operation of forestry programmes in Africa, Asia, and South America (see below).

## IV. Progress on implementation

17. Global union federations have contributed in the following ways to promoting the IPF/IFF proposals for action:

(a) Codifying the ILO core conventions in various certification schemes: Pan European Forest Certification, Forest Stewardship Council, Malaysian Timber Certification Council (Convention 87, codified in 2002), and Indonesian Ekolabel (pending);

(b) Developing union knowledge of sustainable forestry criteria by conducting training for workers in: Brazil, Chile, Peru, Argentina, People's Republic of China, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Poland, EU countries, Malaysia, and Indonesia;

(c) Modelling community forestry pilot projects in: Ghana, Kenya, and Burkina Faso.

## V. Means of implementation

18. The five primary means of implementation are:

(a) Through capacity development of trade unions that deal directly with forestry issues on a daily basis. Capacity-building includes education and training in the principles of sustainable forestry management, certification criteria, and the techniques to enforce the ILO core labour standards, as well as technical support of foresters, economists and occupational safety and health experts;

(b) Working actively with the larger certification schemes, the trade unions have played an important role in getting the core ILO conventions accepted as a prerequisite for forest certification;

(c) Through global framework agreements the global union federations work with numerous multinational corporations to insure that they and their suppliers use fibre from sustainably managed forests and extend ILO core conventions to all suppliers and their workers;

(d) Working with national Governments to develop codes of conduct, primarily in terms of occupational safety and health in forestry and wood processing;

(e) Creating opportunities for social dialogue between multinational corporations, national Governments, and national trade unions and promoting the development of consensual policies based on economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable forestry practices.

## VI. Monitoring

19. Monitoring the various strategies requires extensive resources. In most cases the global union federations rely on local union affiliates to report abuses of the social or environmental criteria of their national legislation, global framework agreements, and/or sustainable forest certification scheme criteria. Once reported the global union federations respond in a series of ways:

(a) First, meet with local affiliates and national or global partners to clarify the nature of the violation or problem;

(b) Secondly, if a formal conflict resolution methodology exists, use the methodology to resolve the conflict;

(c) Thirdly, if no conflict resolution methodology exists, then global solidarity campaigns are launched to create political, social, and economic pressure to obtain compliance.

20. During 2002, the International Federation of Building and Wood Workers engaged in activities leading to the suspension of a sustainable forestry certificate of a multinational corporation operating in Asia for violation of the ILO core labour standards. The Federation has conducted two solidarity campaigns to enforce global framework agreements in the construction industry. The Federation is also scheduled to conduct a tour with the IKEA company in early 2003 to ensure that ILO core labour standards are being adhered to by third-party suppliers in Asia and to monitor the use of sustainably managed wood through the entire manufacturing process.

## VII. Conclusions

21. The best developed and well-intentioned plans for achieving sustainable forestry and combating deforestation frequently fail for social reasons. The increase in illegal logging is but one example of what occurs when national forestry management policy is developed in the absence of clear social protection criteria. The principal cause of deforestation continues to be poverty. Until the wealth of the forest is shared in an equitable manner with forest dwellers and forest-dependent workers, deforestation will continue to occur, especially in areas of relative economic hardship. The poor, regardless of their location in developed or developing countries, will act in a manner to survive. Such actions frequently are made illegal by well-intentioned forest protection legislation. In addition, the drive by major economic players in forestry to cut costs is resulting in an increased reliance on contract and informal work. This work tends to contribute to non-sustainable forestry activity, since it is more difficult to regulate, is associated with fewer or no traditional social protections and results in more, rather than less, economic hardships for these workers.

22. Finally, the competition between sustainable forest certification systems continues to divert resources, energy and attention from the social causes of non-sustainable forestry.

23. The ILO core labour standards represent the foundation for decent work and the empowerment of the forestry workforce and thus a path to decrease poverty and promote sustainable forestry. However, the increasing trend towards informal work in forestry creates an increasing number of workers who are denied access to the ILO core labour standards, even in countries where the standards have been adopted.

## VIII. Requested actions by the third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

24. The forest workers and trade unions major group:

(a) Calls on all partners participating in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to require recognition of the ILO core labour standards in all forestry projects, research, grants, and loans;

(b) Calls on the partners participating in the Partnership to focus work plans, research and pilot projects to identify methods of redistributing forest wealth generating activities to forest-dependent communities and the forest workforce (formal and informal);

(c) Requests that the Forum at its third session invite the ILO to become actively involved in the Partnership and promote and monitor the core labour standards through its International Labour Standards programmes and its Sectoral Activities programmes;

(d) Invites all participating countries to develop work plans to extend existing national social and economic legislative protections for formal workers to all informal workers operating in forestry activities. This could include:

(i) Amending relevant laws, conventions, and agreements to promote a presumption of employment, thereby placing the burden of proof as to a worker's employment status on the employer and not on the worker;

(ii) Identifying national policies and programmes that support the informalization of the forestry workforce;

(iii) Working with all social partners to find adequate resources for proper monitoring and labour inspection for the forestry workforce;

(iv) Working with all social partners to develop standardized certification requirements for forestry workers and deliver the training required in order to obtain the skills needed to be certified;

(e) Invites participating countries to review national sustainable forestry standards, codes, and practices so as to ensure that the ILO core labour standards are codified in such instruments and enforced by the ministries that have responsibility for forest management;

(f) Invites participating Governments to adopt policies and resolutions to promote mutual recognition of all certification systems that require sustainable forest management and include ILO core labour standards.

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## Multi-stakeholder dialogue

### Note by the Secretary-General

**Addendum**

### Discussion paper contributed by the youth and children major group**

*Summary*

The world's youth and children collectively constitute a valuable human capacity, able to learn, innovate and create dynamic responses to what seem to be formidable challenges to sustainable development. In the context of forests and within the United Nations Forum on Forests process, youth and children should continue to be recognized as stakeholders of our world and their contribution should be valued as such.

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** Prepared by the Global Youth Network.

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***"Young people perhaps understand better than most that we are not living in a zero-sum, environment-versus-economy world." — Secretary-General Kofi Annan, World Youth Report 2003.***

## I. Introduction

1. This discussion paper serves to inform the United Nations Forum on Forests at its third session about the current status of youth involvement in the implementation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) proposals for action relating to youth and children, as well as about youth and children input into all aspects of forestry, including economic aspects, forest health and productivity, and in maintaining vital forest cover to meet present and future needs.

2. We welcome the opportunity given to young people to be given a voice in United Nations Forum on Forests through the multi-stakeholder dialogue, and we also call for the 3rd session of this Forum to endorse the recommendations contained in this paper.

3. We are aware of the need for youth action now to promote sustainable development and conservation and protection of forests for the benefit of future generations, backed by responsible and sustainable consumption of forest resources by nations, communities and individuals. We call for renewed action to implement the provisions of Agenda 21 and the Habitat Agenda and other international agreements to protect forests.

4. The purpose of the multi-stakeholder dialogue should be to evaluate the contribution and engagement of civil society in forest issues and, more importantly, to highlight obstacles and solutions to achieving sustainability in all forest-related sectors. This document is presented as a forward-looking document, evaluating achievements and elaborating the way forward in identifying obstacles and opportunities for increasing youth action on forests. It highlights youth as valuable and responsible partners in forestry.

5. The paper has been compiled with the assistance of a drafting commission of young people active in forestry issues from all regions, with special attention given to gender and cultural balance.

6. We are convinced of the importance of providing young people with the resources and enabling environment to tackle the personal and societal challenges that beset them.

7. We recognize that young people should take an active role in conceptualizing, decision-making, implementation and evaluation of forest policies, and organize themselves at various levels to create effective networks and develop skills to mobilize resources in order to implement IPF/IFF proposals for action.

## II. Background and lessons learned

### Background

8. Forests cover 30 per cent of the world's land cover and are responsible for providing the world's wood, fuel and other valuable non-wood forests products, as

well as maintain an important part of the world's biodiversity and rare ecology. Youth are part of the population that live in and use forests and thus are also a group affected by the unsustainable use of forests. It is, therefore, of vital importance that all programmes and institutions enhance youth participation in ensuring that the exploitation of forests is sustainable. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's Global Forestry Resource Assessment 2000, 9.4 million ha of forest cover disappear annually. We must ensure that forests are used in a sustainable manner.

9. The forest sector exists within the context of the environment; but within forests there are livelihoods, diverse ecosystems, cultures and heritage and solutions to economic, social and environmental challenges facing the world today. Our forests clothe, feed, heal and sustain humanity; they are a vital and integral part of the world.

10. Youth and children are a historically marginalized demographic group with unique challenges as well as opportunities. In recent years the international environmental movement has become a platform for youth mobilization and action on environmental issues. Youth and children have recently offered their own input with regard to forests as a specific sector of the environment. It is hoped that youth and children will continue their increased involvement in environmental movements in order to contribute positively to protecting and nurturing the world's forests.

**Lessons learned**

11. Owing to a lack of funding interest in youth activities, youth initiatives seldom reach beyond the phase of discussion and yet young people are criticized by the people responsible for funding the initiatives for not bringing enough action to international processes. This paradox is disturbing! Youth need to be granted financial assistance in order to act!

12. A great obstacle to youth and children action to benefit forests is the obstacle experienced by youth and children NGOs in accessing the United Nations. Although UNEP and similar United Nations agencies host youth programmes, youth access to participate in and influence official United Nations processes is minimal, owing to lack of information and stringent and exclusive criteria for obtaining consultative status. There is, however, growing consensus that youth and children are important stakeholders in official United Nations processes, hence the inclusion of a multi-stakeholder process within the United Nations Forum on Forests.

13. Forest issues and their complexity often elude the uninformed young person concerned with the environment. It must be pointed out, though, that these young people still have the capacity and basic knowledge with which to contribute greatly to meeting the objectives of the Forum and implementing the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

14. Following on this point, it must be recognized that youth have only recently been included in the multi-stakeholder process of the Forum. Within the IPF/IFF proposals for action, youth are not identified as stakeholders for implementation, although this demographic group has been accepted for inclusion in the non-governmental organizations category. It can be argued that the exclusion of youth as a major group within the IPF/IFF proposals for action marginalized youth input and action aimed at implementing the proposals. It is strongly encouraged that any

further documents include the youth and children demographic group as responsible partners in implementation.

15. We realize that much of the world population lives in poverty, facing daily the unacceptable conditions of hunger and malnutrition, disease, homelessness, unsafe environments and social exclusion, and that the majority of this population consists of young people, three quarters of them living in the surroundings of forests in rural areas.

16. An obstacle is the exclusion of young people in the process of official decision-making, forest policy-making and programmes aimed at sustainable forest exploitation.

**International**

17. Forest issues are relevant at all levels, local, national and regional, but it is at the international level that comprehensive discussion of the issues takes place. As mentioned in the introduction to this section, youth and children have been included into the United Nations Forum on Forests process recently but have no formal experience in advocating forest issues in relation to the United Nations at the international level.

18. Youth and children experience difficulty in accessing the United Nations owing to the stringent and exclusive criteria involved in obtaining consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. These criteria are seldom met by youth NGOs, even though many youth NGOs operating at all levels have the capacity to contribute positively to United Nations processes, for example: the Forum.

19. Globalization is an issue of both local and international concern; the economic activities that characterize globalization have negative social and economic impacts on local communities, the demographic groups hardest hit by these social and economic impacts are youth and children. Globalization must be harnessed as a positive force for the protection of our forests.

20. Destructive actions on the part of transnational/multinational corporations have been identified. These destructive actions include: unsustainable use of forest lands for economically driven activities, exploitation of forest environments with no effort to avert the negative effects, exploitation of forest inhabitants, deforestation of fragile forests for short-term economic ventures, and the relocation of native forest-dwelling people and the subsequent weakening of their cultural heritage. It is absolutely vital that multinational corporations carefully calculate the social and economic impacts on forest-dwelling persons and communities reliant on forests as a livelihood, as well as carefully consider the environmental impacts of their activities on forest ecology, health and productivity.

**Regional**

21. There is a lack of regional coordination on forest issues, which affects youth and children. This deficit has meant that young people cannot respond adequately to regional threats to forests, which often occur as a result of environmental problems, such as air pollution. Air pollution is recognized to have transboundary characteristics (i.e. it has the potential to affect an entire region) and is one example of the environmental problems facing youth and children today.

Certain regional economic and social issues impact forest health and productivity directly; these issues include chronic unemployment and poverty. These issues pose great challenges for young people entering informal or formal roles in forestry.

**National**

22. Government-granted logging concessions are, in some cases, granted without meaningful mechanisms for monitoring and assessing the impacts of the logging activities. Breather periods for forests to recover from logging activities need to be ensured as an important component of national legislation pertaining to forests.

23. Young people lack organization with regard to forest issues at the national level. This lack of organization contributes to a lack of awareness among youth and children about the importance of forests and their biodiversity.

24. As pointed out in the achievements section, few Member States have implemented action aimed at involving forest issues in national primary and secondary education curricular; this action would greatly enhance implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action.

25. Associated social and economic dimensions greatly impact forests; growing youth unemployment rates and the related social impacts often lead young people to act in unsustainable ways to meet their subsistence needs. Forests are exploited in unsustainable ways when the economic and social environment is weakened. In a global world it is vital to recognize the inextricable link between forests, the environment and economic and social conditions within Member States. Young people tend to be the most vulnerable and marginalized group with respect to unemployment, poverty, conflict and health problems.

26. In most countries, essential possessions and services are derived from forest resources that have assured the food security of peoples for the past hundred years. They are a source of financial resources, medicinal products and utilitarian materials. These constitute basic elements for all development.

**Local**

27. As already mentioned, young people at the local level, especially young people from forest-dwelling, forest-reliant communities are impacted greatly by wide-ranging international economic activity. For example, youth and children are impacted — often adversely — by relocation for the purpose of commercial activity.

28. Linked to the growing world human population is the need to provide infrastructure to support humanity; urban development has been recognized as, on the one hand, providing vital infrastructure to local communities, but, at the same time, threatening valuable forests and their biodiversity.

29. In order to empower young people in rural and urban areas to combat hunger and poverty especially among youth, they need to be provided with the necessary resources and capacities in order to create employment and earn an income for their own sustainable livelihoods. Priority should be given to rural youth greatly affected by hunger and poverty, through specific programmes and funding involving the provision of production resources, such as land, water and seeds, and of appropriate technologies and training in sustainable farming, life skills and forest resource management. The United Nations, United Nations bodies and agencies,

Governments and regional organizations should make decisive efforts to establish a fund for youth development, to be managed by youth and geared towards youth.

30. Forest-dwelling communities include youth and children. In situations of war or other unsustainable activities, for example overexploitation of forests or illegal logging, such vulnerable groups suffer first. Youth and children in forest-dwelling areas are required to sustain the livelihood of the household within forest ecosystems. When these ecosystems are disrupted, youth and children are affected.

## III. Youth involvement in implementing the IPF/IFF proposals for action

31. Over the past two decades there has been greater recognition of youth as viable and necessary partners for social change, environmental protection and preservation, issues now collectively included in the concept of sustainable development. It has only been over the past decade that there has been an unprecedented growth in the number of new youth and children institutions and non-governmental organizations, operating particularly at the local level. However, within the "web" of the global youth movement, there are few youth groups specifically focused on action, education and awareness in the area of forests.

32. Forest issues cover a broad spectrum of sectors, including trade and globalization, pollution, governance, education, employment and poverty. It is in these contexts that youth input towards IPF/IFF proposals for action should be gauged.

33. The IPF/IFF proposals for actions' closest relationship with youth and children was the call on the NGO community to be responsible partners in research, awareness creation and information transfer to youth and children. But youth and children have a greater responsibility than awareness creation and information gathering alone, namely, the responsibility of ensuring that their future environment is healthy and productive. They will be the future actors in protecting forest biodiversity, safeguarding forest products like fuel, wood, medicines, foods, a habitat for other creatures and oxygen to sustain the human population for future generations.

34. There is a range of youth-led organizations and initiatives that focus on forest issues within the context of the environment. Some examples of such initiatives include: the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Youth Forum, which is an annual event that provides youth with a platform for discussion, empowerment and action-building around environmental issues, including forests and forest-related matters. The UNEP Global Youth Retreat, which coincides in time with the UNEP Governing Council session, provides youth and children with the opportunity to contribute to the Governing Council session. These events are organized by the Youth/Sport and Environment Unit within UNEP. Other UNEP initiatives include the UNEP Youth Advisory Council, which is active in all fields of youth and environment, including forest issues. This structure is youth-led and includes representative young people active in environmental issues from all regions.

UNEP has also arranged the convening of the Children's Conference on the Environment in Canada in 2002. The importance of these meetings is that they provide youth with forums and platforms for skills exchange, transfer of information and the mobilization of youth NGOs. The outcomes have been positive and have also promoted the involvement of many young people in environmental and forest-related actions. These platforms and conferences have drawn youth and children's attention towards caring for forests and enhancing their interest in forest issues.

35. Regional cooperation among youth and children on forestry normally takes place within the broader context of the environment. In the build-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, regional conferences on sustainable development were held in cooperation with United Nations agencies, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme. These conferences dealt with a wide range of environment issues, including forests and related forest issues.

36. Regional youth platforms, such as the European Youth Forum and the African Youth Network, are actively involved in promoting environmental issues relating to forests through the establishment of sustainable development officers. These officers are responsible for youth policy and action on environmental and development issues. Along with these regional youth arrangements there are regional offices of international youth NGOs that promote the concerns of the regional scenarios, for example, the South American regional office for Oxfam and the International Youth Parliament. It is hoped that the United Nations regional economic and social commissions will enhance their profile with regard to youth involvement in forest issues.

37. A few Governments have made provisions for or have included forest issues and forest education in their national secondary school curricula, for example Nigeria. The inclusion of forest issues in national curricula at any level, whether primary, secondary or tertiary, is a positive step that serves to promote children and youth awareness of forest issues. Forests become relevant to young people within the context of an educational environment and Member States are encouraged to adopt such a policy as a strategy for targeting and engaging their youth population in forest issues. Education is the cornerstone of a nation's intellectual capacity.

38. At the national level, national youth councils exist in the majority of the Member States of the United Nations. These national youth structures serve to engage youth in issues pertaining to the environment and development and provide an opportunity for organizing awareness and creating programmes on forests.

## IV. Economic aspects of forests

39. Forestry-relevant elements, such as timber, non-timber forest products, and tourism, are goods traded on global markets. The framework for forest management, such as environmental law, forest policy and trade in forest products, require foresters to be educated to deal with such aspects. To develop sound forest and land-use management it is important to understand the dynamics of ecosystems. Although there are significant differences between the individual systems, cooperation in investigation can increase the gain of knowledge in the understanding of the ecosystems. The International Forestry Students Association has been developing educational actions and programmes to ensure that young people who pursue careers

in forestry are equipped to deal with the economic activities of trade and the overarching results of globalization on forestry.

40. Internationally, youth and children are organizing themselves through the use of the Internet to ensure that their voice is heard at international economic conferences, forums and processes such as the World Bank, World Economic Forum and United Nations Conference on Financing for Development. Examples of this type of organizing include an initiative by the youth-run organization, Taking ITGlobal, which organized in conjunction with the World Economic Forum an Internet-based discussion platform for youth and children.

41. The Oxfam International Youth Parliament has produced a booklet that highlights the threats and opportunities presented by globalization. This booklet is one mechanism through which young people are presented with information related to economic processes that affect forests.

42. International youth NGOs increasingly include the environment as one of their key objectives; youth NGOs are particularly active in economic and environmental justice issues closely related to forests. Youth discussion platforms, mainly in the form of informal or formal Internet lists, have proved to be valuable contributors to information exchange between youth on forest issues. Youth and children have benefited from information from conferences and summits that have highlighted issues related to forests within the context of sustainable development and the environment. Forest-related issues have served as the focus for the activities of only a few youth and children NGOs; some examples of forest-related issues include the effect of globalization on the environment, youth employment to alleviate poverty and lessen the extent to which young people rely on unsustainable use of forests for their daily subsistence, and human rights relating to the protection of the cultural integrity of forest-dwelling people, such as the indigenous people of Brazil.

## V. Forest health and productivity

43. At the global level, the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) groups young people from all regions active in forestry. The Association is a student-run organization that focuses primarily on academic aspects and approaches to forestry, including the organization of awareness campaigns for students about the value of forests and forest products.

44. Local-level youth action on forests continues to be an effective tool for engaging youth and children in forest issues. A number of initiatives to enhance youth organizations at the local level have taken place in some regions. It can be argued that youth mobilization at the local level benefits the environment and forests within the geographical boundaries of that particular town or municipality, thereby contributing towards the improvement of forest health and productivity.

45. Among the global and regional platforms mentioned in paragraph 15, discussions have ensued on the effects of air pollution on forests and the effects of groundwater and soil pollution on forests and forest ecosystems. These discussions continue to provide young people with valuable insights into such threats.

## VI. Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs

46. Forestry education deals with the management of natural resources. Natural resources are the most important capital of developing countries. Higher education is therefore an important factor in the development of countries, particularly forest education.

47. The development of tertiary education programmes on forests and forest management is encouraging. Students are learning the skills required to ensure that forests are preserved to provide for future generations in a sustainable manner. Governments are encouraged further to enhance tertiary education areas on forests by offering students a wide range of skills aimed at achieving sustainable forest management. Without students trained and educated in sustainable forest management, there may be in the future a deficit of intellectual capacity with regard to sustainable forest management.

48. Local and national tourism authorities have recognized the valuable contribution that ecotourism can bring to forests. One such example is the youth and children training camp concept, which seeks to create awareness about forests and educate young people about sustainable practices. Sustainable use of forests for ecotourism is a viable option for increasing revenue to the local community, as well as for protecting forests through awareness creation and maintenance of the forest area.

## VII. Recommendations

**49. The youth and children major group of the United Nations Forum on Forests:**

**(a) Recognizes that in this age of information technology greater opportunities for information exchange exist than ever before. Youth and children now have access to all of the latest information on forests and related forest issues via the Internet. These opportunities will be considered in length at the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva later in 2003;**

**(b) Acknowledges that the growing use of Internet and e-mail communication has positive implications for young people the world over. This affords them the opportunity to discuss and organize themselves around issues with the minimal use of resources. This is one way in which globalization can be used to benefit local communities;**

**(c) Further acknowledges that great opportunities are provided through Government and civil society partnerships, especially in the consideration of youth and children and forests. Member States are encouraged to engage youth and children organizations through partnerships and cooperative agreements, for example, creating awareness campaigns with local organizations or developing a national strategy for youth training in forest conservation. In addition, Member States are encouraged to build the capacity of local and national youth NGOs in order to promote their involvement in vital forest actions, especially in forest sectors, such as the sustainable use of forest products;**

**(d) Recognizes that youth and children have enthusiasm and energy that can be channelled into constructive programmes by local municipalities, for example, providing for the establishment of youth forestry clubs at the local level and promoting forestry issues within national educational curricula at the primary and secondary levels;**

**(e) Acknowledges the potential role for national and regional youth platforms to monitor the implementation of United Nations Forum on Forests outcomes and the IPF/IFF proposals for action. Subcommittees on national youth platforms should be created in regional bodies to monitor the implementation of global agendas, such as Agenda 21 and the Habitat Agenda. Communication between these subcommittees and regional bodies should also be encouraged;**

**(f) Recognizes that students with tertiary education are the future intellectual capital of their country and that there exists a high correlation between the quantity and quality of citizens with higher education and the development environment of their country. It is important that higher education be promoted as a means for educating and involving youth in the future protection and sustainable management of forests;**

**(g) Calls upon the Governments present at the third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests to consider the inclusion of youth delegates within the national delegations at the fourth session of the UNFF;**

**(h) Calls upon the Governments present at the third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests to recognize and identify youth as valuable and relevant partners for the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and subsequent United Nations Forum on Forests outcome documents;**

**(i) Encourages youth and children NGOs to work towards the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action;**

**(j) Requests donor institutions, Governments and the United Nations to increase technical and financial support for youth and children activities concerning forests;**

**(k) Encourages Governments present at the third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests to promote the forging of Government and civil society partnerships on forests, with youth NGOs at the local, national and regional levels;**

**(l) Calls on multinational corporations to recognize the impact of their activities on forests and forest-dwelling communities, especially indigenous communities;**

**(m) Applauds the United Nations Forum on Forests for currently involving stakeholders through the multi-stakeholder dialogue and encourages the Forum to enhance and strengthen the profile of the multi-stakeholder dialogue segment of future Forum sessions;**

**(n) Calls on Governments to focus on creating employment opportunities for young people, as well as on creating, in a sustainable manner, social services and basic infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals and universities. This will place local communities in a better position to use forests in a sustainable manner;**

(o) Calls upon Governments to promote youth involvement in the United Nations and the work of its agencies, in order to ensure that youth and children are represented at all levels of decision-making, thus including valuable input on issues affecting young people. In particular, the inclusion of young people in official delegations to the United Nations Forum on Forests and similar appropriate United Nations meetings will provide greater scope for youth in the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action;

(p) Calls on multinational corporations that are based in developed countries but have operations in developing countries to ensure that they implement meaningful social responsibility programmes that seek to promote the sustainable development of the communities that host them. Meaningful investment into local communities will improve economic and social conditions and lessen the unsustainable dependency on forests and forest biodiversity and forest products. Multinational corporations can create opportunities for young people through such investment; the corporations will be able to improve production, as well as improve opportunities for locals;

(q) Calls upon Governments, international financial institutions and civil society to enhance the efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Forestry Students Association and other institutions with a view to providing higher education for young people on forests. Education should also be recognized as a means for averting the effects of armed conflict on forest, the forest industry and forest-dwelling communities;

(r) Calls upon international institutions to provide a link between educated forestry students and relevant programmes, with the aim of providing forestry students with valuable and relevant experience in sustainable forest management;

(s) Requests Governments to support the formation of a World Youth Action on Forests Network, which will serve to organize youth action on forest issues.

## VIII. Conclusion

50. Youth and children generally lack a thorough knowledge of the complex issues relating to forests. This lack of knowledge does not, however, indicate a lack of understanding that the environment and particularly our forests will soon be their responsibility.

51. The United Nations Forum on Forests provides a platform where States can discuss the important issues relating to forests. The Forum should be recognized as a platform to enhance civil society participation in global decision-making processes on forests, focusing especially on youth and children participation. Youth and children will be required to protect the forests for future generations and the international community must therefore work to create awareness among youth, educate youth about forests and design, implement and evaluate programmes and projects led by youth on forests.

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# Multi-stakeholder dialogue

## Note by the Secretary-General

**Addendum**

## Discussion paper contributed by the forest business and industry major group

*Summary*

The International Council of Forest and Paper Associations and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development are two of the United Nations Forum on Forests focal points for the forest business and industry major group.

The International Council of Forest and Paper Associations represents the trade associations for the forest industry worldwide. In total, member companies of the Council operate in 39 different countries. The goal of the Council is to present the collective position of its members on global issues.

In fulfilling that function, the Council has presented herein its views on progress towards implementation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/ Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action to be considered at the third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. In general our aim is to see continuous improvement in the sustainable management of forests in every country. We place particular emphasis on transparent reporting of progress in a clear manner, addressing the issue of forest law enforcement, the important role of plantations in achieving sustainability, plus other issues that we feel are critical to achieving the goal of sustainability that is common to all stakeholders and levels of Government.

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The World Business Council for Sustainable Development's sustainable forest products industry working group provides a platform for leading private sector forestry and forest products companies from North and South America, Europe and Asia to collectively define and achieve sustainability in the forest products industry.

There is a high degree of connection between the objectives and work programme of the working group and the three key themes of the third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The working group recommends that the third session focus on activities that will increase the well-being of forest associated communities by placing emphasis on the following areas: (a) framework conditions for private investment, (b) national forest standards development, (c) investing in forest management capacity in developing countries, (d) combating illegal logging, and (e) ecosystem services identification and valuation.

The working group requests that the Forum (a) improve forest policy involvement in cross-sector forums and processes associated with the main causes of deforestation, (b) recognize other multi-stakeholder dialogue processes, such as The Forests Dialogue, (c) strengthen future multi-stakeholder dialogue processes for the fourth and fifth sessions of the Forum, and (d) encourage collaboration and cooperation between forest certification systems to support sustainable forest management globally.

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# I. Contribution by the International Council for Forest Paper Associations

## A. Introduction

1. Deliberations at the third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) will focus on the following elements:

(a) Economic aspects of forests;

(b) Forest health and productivity;

(c) Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs.

2. This paper represents the views of the International Council of Forest and Paper Associations with regard to these three areas and is provided to the Forum secretariat for consideration by Forum participants.

## B. Background

3. The International Council of Forest and Paper Associations consists of trade associations in 39 countries representing industries accounting for 75 per cent of the world's paper production and more than 50 per cent of the world's wood production. The main goal of the Council is to serve as a forum for joint action in areas ranging from communications to data collection. This cooperation deals with international matters and with developing and promoting common positions. The Council also represents industry in multilateral organizations.

4. The common interests of industry within the Forum's activities focus on the sustainability of the world's forest resources and the encouragement of the private sector, Government and intergovernmental bodies to each fulfil their appropriate roles to meet this important goal. To that end, an assessment is provided below as to the progress these different entities have made in achieving the proposals for action outlined in the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, and the areas where there is need for more to be accomplished.

## C. Economic aspects of forests

### Forest law enforcement

5. The Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action make several references to the need for capacity-building, including institutional support in many regions. Lack of progress in this area continues to contribute to the problem of illegal logging. This activity not only contributes to deforestation, but also undermines the viability of legally harvested and traded forest products and is a serious detriment to forest sustainability. The forest and paper industry acknowledges that forest law enforcement is the responsibility of domestic authorities, but concedes that such practices are not always easy to control.

6. The establishment of laws and regulations that promote and advance sustainable forest management, as well as the correct enforcement of these laws, are

activities welcomed by the industry and should be fully supported by all Governments.

7. Agencies involved in assistance to countries and industry members can assist through the dissemination and application of new technologies that support monitoring of forest activities.

8. The forest law enforcement and governance process has been an important first step in highlighting illegal logging and trade concerns, and needs to be expanded to include mechanisms that regularly report progress in remaining areas of concern.

**Forest development**

9. We take note that the World Bank has adopted a policy that includes support for sustainable forest management projects addressing the full range of forest benefits, including economic benefits. We urge all donors to recognize that economic values are one of the essential principles of sustainability and can be important to addressing other issues, such as poverty alleviation.

10. The Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests invited countries to promote policies and regulations that encourage private sector investments and the International Council of Forest and Paper Associations feels that there is still progress to be made in this area. Countries enable forest investment when they create a secure, predictable, legally structured institutional framework within which business can operate.

**Forest certification**

11. Private sector commitments have produced substantial progress towards sustainable forest management through collaborative development and the application of voluntary systems for forest management certification and codes of conduct. To date, nearly 134 million hectares have been independently certified to be in compliance with one of several standards. We urge all forest enterprises to pursue similar goals in the future.

12. In order to facilitate these goals a system of mutual recognition for systems meeting basic thresholds of credibility is needed. The Council calls on the continued involvement of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as a convenor of parties with an interest in this task and asks for acknowledgement from other international organizations that mutual recognition can be an important contributor to sustainable forest management worldwide.

**Trade**

13. Governments have been encouraged to develop market-based instruments in support of sustainable forest management and we would urge all entities to recognize that free and open markets, both domestically and internationally, and founded within effective processes of governance, should be a goal for the entire community.

14. The proposals for action note that no consensus was reached on trade liberalization within the auspices of the World Trade Organization. The Forum should strive to reach such a consensus.

## D. Forest health and productivity

### Assessment

15. A number of proposals refer to the importance of forest assessments and provide recommendations for their improvement. Assessment is the first step towards protecting health and productivity and is broadly insufficient at this time.

16. As a means to facilitate better assessment the Forum should consider the conclusions and recommendations of the recent conference on criteria and indicators in Guatemala City dealing with the implementation of criteria and indicators. A commonly recognized set of criteria at the global level will improve cost effectiveness of assessments and allow transparent articulation of health and productivity concerns among countries.

### Research and technical assistance

17. Research, capacity-building and direct technical assistance priorities should adequately reflect the importance of forest health and productivity. There are substantial needs in this area and substantial benefits to be gained from increased productivity of fibre, as well as from more effective fire, insect and disease prevention and suppression.

## E. Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs

### Plantations

18. Negotiations in the context of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/ Intergovernmental Forum on Forests agreed that plantations are an important contributor to global forest sustainability. They represent the best avenue for increasing forest productivity of fibre and they allow other aspects of sustainability, such as conservation of biological diversity, to be better supported through the fact that these lands offset demands for wood.

19. Plantation establishment and management should be considered an important topic within the research, capacity-building and technical assistance priorities.

### Economic valuation

20. The most efficient motivator for maintaining forest cover continues to be the ability of forests to support the present and future well-being of people, including their ability to realize economic advancement. Actions to support the economic viability of forests were referred to in section C on the economic aspects of forests, but are equally relevant to the issue of maintaining forest cover.

21. In addition, the economic value of non-timber forest products, such as carbon sequestration, should be promoted through various mechanisms as a tool for landowners to realize additional market-based incomes from their forests.

# II. Discussion paper, policy recommendations and action requests submitted by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development

## A. Introduction

22. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development is a coalition of 165 international companies united by a shared commitment to sustainable development. Its members are drawn from more than 30 countries and 20 major industrial sectors, including forest-based industries. The Council also operates a global network of 40 national and regional business councils and partner organizations involving some 1,000 business leaders. The Council's mission is to provide business leadership as a catalyst for change towards sustainable development and to promote the role of eco-efficiency, innovation and corporate social responsibility. The Council has provided a platform for leading forestry and forest products companies since the mid-1990s, producing in 1996 the publication "Towards the Sustainable Paper Cycle" and subsequently establishing a formal working group. In 1999, along with lead NGOs, it launched the forests dialogue, a multi-stakeholder process linking civic society and the private sector in order to seek consensus on sustainable forest management.

23. In August 2002, the sustainable forest products industry project was established with the goals of enhancing public and consumer confidence in sustainably sourced forest products and building stakeholder confidence in the industry by improving its sustainable development performance. Participating Council member companies are leading international forestry, forest product manufacturing and user companies, including Aracruz Celulose, AOL Time Warner, Basic Elements, Grupo Nueva, International Paper, MeadWestvaco, Mondi, Nippon Unipac, Norske Skog, Oji Paper, Proctor & Gamble, Portucel, Stora Enso, Sonae Industria, UBS Timber, UPM-Kymmene, and Weyerhaeuser. In November 2002, the Council started to provide support to the Global Forest Industry CEO Forum — a network of global forest product company leaders, including Council and non-Council member companies, which are collectively responsible for an estimated 40 per cent of annual industrial wood fibre production. In January 2003, the Council entered into a cooperative agreement with WWF International to positively influence global sustainable forest management and sustainable forest products industry issues, processes and developments. It also initiated with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) a quarterly dialogue process to enhance cooperation on sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation initiatives, and is actively strengthening relationships with other globally focused environment groups.

## B. The Council's connection with Forum themes — Economic aspects of forests; Forest health and productivity; Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs

24. The sustainable forest product industry working group of the Council works actively with environmental and social groups, customers and other stakeholders in seeking to enhance sustainably managed forests to meet the needs of the current population of six billion people — nine billion by 2050 — for: wood and paper products; renewable energy; ecosystem services, such as biodiversity, carbon

sequestration and watershed values; economic well-being and sustainable livelihoods.

25. During 2003 and 2004 the sustainable forest product industry working group of the Council, in partnership with the CEO Forum, participants in The Forests Dialogue and bilateral partners, is specifically working to:

- Encourage the effective use of credible forest certification systems.
- Seek consensus on definitions and objectives for high conservation forests and for intensively managed forests.
- Develop appropriate sustainability reporting parameters for the industry.
- Work to combat illegal logging.
- Enhance appreciation of the forest industry's important role in reducing atmospheric greenhouse gases via carbon sequestration in forests, carbon storage in forest products and through supplying renewable, carbon-neutral energy.
- Develop and communicate a vision for the sustainable forest products industry.

26. Collectively, private sector forestry and forest product enterprises are:

- The primary suppliers of a wide range of essential forest products to local and global markets — from construction materials, paper, sanitary products, packaging to specialty chemicals — with production currently around US$ 750 billion per year.
- Significant suppliers of ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration, watershed, soil conservation and recreation, from privately owned forest land.
- The primary, long-term investors in forestry and processing development projects.
- Providers of millions of jobs and economic support to thousands of local communities.
- Active innovators — developing and applying science and technology to improve eco-efficiency, social well-being and economic competitiveness.
- Significantly involved in the development of sustainable forest management standards and, often, are the primary implementer of on-the-ground sustainable forest management operations.

27. The three Forum session themes are relevant to the private sector. There is alignment with specific Council objectives for the sustainable forest products industry and its work programme. The Council is one of three industry focal points within the Forum's multi-stakeholder dialogue process. Based on this, we anticipate that the Forum will give appropriate consideration to our policy recommendations and action requests.

## C. The Council's policy recommendations and action requests to the Forum at its third session

28. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development recommends that the United Nations Forum on Forests and participating Governments focus on implementation activities that will increase the well-being of affected people associated with forested areas. Unless human needs are substantially met, efforts devoted to forests will fail. Specifically we recommend placing emphasis on initiatives associated with the following priorities drawn from the IPF/IFF proposals for action:

(a) Creating framework conditions — including the rule of law, secure land tenure and property rights — that support and stimulate private sector investment in sustainable forest management and sustainable manufacturing developments;

(b) Supporting the development and utilization of forest management programmes and standards that are appropriate to local forest, social and economic circumstances and based on multi-stakeholder dialogue processes;

(c) Increasing and improving the coordination of development investments by major official development assistance providing nations and key agencies in forest management capacity in developing countries, concentrating on those with the highest regions with rates of deforestation;

(d) Placing high priority on combating illegal logging in association with industry, NGOs and local communities;

(e) Accelerating work associated with the identification and valuation of forest ecosystem services to create the opportunity to recognize their economic value.

29. The Council requests that the Forum undertake the following specific actions:

(a) Encourage forest policy makers to more directly address the underlying causes of deforestation — such as poverty, rapid population growth, energy and food needs — by actively and assertively introducing sustainable forest management considerations into intergovernmental and multilateral policy forums and processes dealing with:

(i) Agricultural development and food security, e.g., World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

(ii) Sustainable development and poverty alleviation, e.g., World Bank, United Nations Development Programme;

(iii) Population issues, e.g. Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat;

(iv) Energy and climate change, e.g. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(v) Trade and investment liberalization, e.g. World Trade Organization;

(b) Support effective sustainable forest management policy development within the Kyoto Protocol, which is a critical priority;

**(c) Recognize and endorse existing non-governmental multi-stakeholder processes that are addressing sustainable forest management, such as the forests dialogue;**

**(d) Direct and resource the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat to significantly expand and strengthen its multi-stakeholder dialogue process for the fourth and fifth sessions of the Forum;**

**(e) Encourage certification systems to collaborate and mutually support the achievement of good forest management outcomes globally — thereby allowing customers and major users of forest products, including Governments, to operate inclusive purchasing strategies utilizing a range of credible certification systems that support sustainable forest management and economic well-being.**

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## Multi-stakeholder dialogue

### Note by the Secretary-General

**Addendum**

### Discussion paper contributed by the scientific and technological community: science and technology: building the future of the world's forests

*Summary*

International forest policy deliberations have made progress over the past decade in fostering political commitment on sustainable forest management. In the effective implementation of these commitments the role of science and technology is crucial.

Policy and decision makers should take into full account the potential of markets as means for expressing the full range of values and for distributing the multiple benefits. To this end, it is of vital importance to determine appropriate absolute and relative values for the many benefits provided by forests and to include the real costs of production and distribution in market prices. For this purpose, science and technology should provide and further develop its substantive scientific knowledge on the valuation of forest goods and services and the provision of market and trade-related data and information, and on market-based policy instruments.

There is a strong need for policy and decision makers to adopt a universally accepted definition of forest health. In addition, more appropriate approaches should be used for monitoring and assessing forest health over the medium to long term in

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response to the various natural and anthropogenic stressors. Science and technology should provide and further improve scientific knowledge and technology, addressing the broad range of factors degrading forest health and productivity.

In order to be able to maintain forest cover for present and future generations, policy and decision makers need to address more effectively the various anthropogenic stresses for forest ecosystems and forest biodiversity by means of strengthened dialogue and cooperation with other sectors. In addition, impacts of forestry practices on the roles and functions of forest ecosystems should be addressed. Science and technology has an important role in generating substantive scientific knowledge about the role and functions of forests and the impacts of stresses, as well as new technology for the monitoring, assessment and reporting of forest resources, including remote sensing. All these efforts need to build on adequate capacities of humans and institutions. Therefore, the transfer of technology and the improvement of education and capacity-building continue to be important tasks.

**Explanatory note**

The international scientific and technological community has been invited by the United Nations Forum on Forests to contribute to its deliberations by means of a major group discussion starter paper for the multi-stakeholder dialogue at the third session of the Forum. For this purpose, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the Centre de Recherche et d'Action pour le Développement Durable en Afrique Centrale (CERAD) have joined efforts and prepared this paper. Serving as the designated focal point of the major group designated as "scientific and technological community" for the third session of the Forum, IUFRO accepted the task to assume the overall responsibility for the development of the discussion starter paper. The cooperation with the Austrian Government in providing in-kind support for the coordination of this task is acknowledged with appreciation.

Numerous experts from within the scientific and technological communities have contributed to the preparation of the discussion starter paper, aiming to tackle economic aspects of forests and trade, forest health and productivity and the maintenance of forest cover so as to meet present and future needs as comprehensively as possible. However, it is acknowledged that some aspects of particular relevance to the South could have received more substantive consideration, but could not be addressed in greater depth within the short time available.

IUFRO, ICSU and CERAD wish to thank the Forum secretariat for the guidance provided in the development of the paper. It is our sincere hope that the discussion starter paper adequately responds to the information needs of the representatives and delegates to the third session of the Forum and will help to achieve substantial progress on the issues for deliberation. As such, we hope that the paper is one step further in building a better future for the world's forests.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Risto Seppälä | Thomas Rosswall | Patrice Bigombe Logo |
| President, IUFRO | Executive Director, ICSU | Director, CERAD |

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# I. Background — Science and technology as a basis for sustainable forest management

1. The international forest policy dialogue since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992 has given shape to the multi-dimensional concept of sustainable forest management. Policy instruments have been developed in order to operationalize and further promote this multi-dimensional concept. Ten years after UNCED, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg reiterated the important role of sustainable forest management for achieving overall sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

2. However, actual implementation of sustainable forest management remains a daunting challenge, and achieving it requires the fundamental issues be addressed without delay at local, regional and global levels. Most notably, deforestation and forest degradation have continued at a fast rate in several regions of the world, the loss of natural forests in the tropics being estimated to exceed 15 million ha every year. Moreover, concerns about the conservation of forest biological diversity have further increased over the past decade. These developments invariably also affect the availability of forest goods and services and the livelihood of people.

3. In order to address these urgent problems effectively, a better integration of the three dimensions of sustainable forest management, i.e. the ecological, economic and social dimension, has to be achieved by means of participatory and cross-sectoral deliberation mechanisms which integrate the values and needs of different stakeholders and which incorporate existing and new scientific knowledge.

4. At all scales, the role of science and technology is crucial. That community can make a leading contribution to tackling the economic, social and environmental problems connected with sustainable forest management. At the Summit, the scientific and technological community offered a commitment to: (i) make research more policy relevant, (ii) include other stakeholders in broad-based, participatory approaches for a new research agenda, (iii) develop research that integrates the environmental, social and ecological pillars of sustainable development, (iv) assist in improving science education and capacity-building, (v) develop strategies to bridge the North-South divide in scientific and technological capacity, and (vi) help ensure long-term strategies and data needs. If these commitments are implemented and supported, science and technology will be a basis for sustainable development. These general points are also highly relevant for UNFF-3 and the sustainable management of the world's forests.

# II. Substantive element "Economic aspects of forests", including "Trade"

### Background: role of economic aspects of forests

5. Forests create multiple economic, social, environmental and other benefits for society. Forests offer food, fiber and fuel for large populations. Forests are thus central for rural development and the livelihood of people. For others, forests are important for recreation and tourism. The 2002 Summit emphasized the importance of sustainable forest management often as a critical means to eradicate poverty. On

the other hand, forests are influenced by other sectors and policies in various ways, including industry, energy, tourism, transport and trade policies.

6. The supply of forest goods and services is not without limits, nor can these goods and services be distributed equally to all. The production and allocation of these benefits require trade-offs and create costs. Economics offers help in making trade-offs, whether via the market mechanism or through cost-benefit analysis. Economics also provides guidance on the means of achieving the desired balance of output. Markets and cost-benefit analyses are means of facilitating participation, since stakeholders' values can be included in the balance. Information and transparency are important aspects in this respect.

**Crucial issues**

7. Given the complexity of the issues involved in forest-related matters, and the differences in contexts and situations across the globe, the international forest policy dialogue has made remarkable progress over the last decade, including a widely shared understanding of sustainable forest management as an overall goal, the main thematic elements that constitute this goal, and a policy deliberation mechanism, i.e., national forest programmes, to include the multiple views on forests in policy-making. However, on the basis of science and technology, a number of key areas can be identified that seem critical for further consideration in forest policy concerning the effective, efficient and equitable allocation of the costs and benefits of forests.

8. It is necessary to enhance efforts aimed at determining appropriate absolute and relative values for each of the many benefits, and some disbenefits, that forests provide (market and non-market). Furthermore, the real costs of production and their distribution should be integrated and reflected in the price as far as possible, so that products are not traded where the full costs of production exceed market values.

9. It is important to review and, if necessary, devise or adjust mechanisms and rules that guide the adequate allocation of the benefits provided by forests within society and over time. This includes many aspects, mechanisms and trade-offs. It is essential to clarify property-rights issues and mechanisms, especially related to common property resources or open-access resources and land tenure rights. Furthermore, all values, including nature conservation, should be included in the production of goods and services. Finally, adequate information bases and mechanisms for decentralized decision-making, as well as adequate price-building mechanisms on markets and mechanisms for allocating non-market exchanged goods and services are also of high relevance for a more effective, efficient and equitable allocation of benefits.

10. Another important challenge is to address trade and environment issues and to assure that trade occurs in ways that promote sustainable forest management. To this end, further work is possible and necessary to develop the potential of certification as one amongst other voluntary economic and information instruments for strengthening sustainable forest management through market mechanisms.

11. There is a need to address the issue of governance, illegal harvesting and associated trade of forest products. Illegal logging occurs on all continents. It directly affects forests at their ecological, economic and social bases. The question is not only theft of goods from the rightful owner, which has an economic impact, but more broadly, the ecological and social impacts of harvesting at places or times

or of species inconsistent with long-term sustainable management objectives. However, unless good governance and poverty are addressed directly, little progress will be made.

12. Significantly more efforts are also required in the light of the commitments made at the Summit concerning the relation between forests and poverty. In this context, the socio-economic and ecological role of agro-forestry should also be further considered by policy and decision makers. Reference can be made to a number of successful projects and studies addressing agro-forestry and involving the use of science and technology.

**The role and contribution of the science and technology community**

*Important contributions of the science and technology community so far*

13. The science and technology community has established and further developed a scientifically sound methodical basis for the valuation of forest goods and services. Research has helped identify the values of non-timber forest products and services. These values should be reflected in designing and evaluating management options. However, it seems that outcomes of these valuations have not been widely taken up by policy makers. This is despite the now very well developed methodological toolbox of cost-benefit analysis. When discussing the economic valuation of ecosystem goods and services, adequate attention must be given to defining the spatial and temporal scales of interest.

14. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, co-sponsored by the International Council for Science (ICSU) and many other governmental and non-governmental bodies, has prepared a report entitled "People and Ecosystems: A Framework for Assessment and Action". In addition, ICSU is co-sponsor of four global change programmes that form a basis for determining the role of forests in the global climate system and the assessment needs of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

15. On the issue of market data and other information related to wood and non-wood forest products, the science and technology community is strongly involved in several efforts in setting up or improving existing information systems for data collection, assessment and reporting. These include the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) Global Forest Information Service (GFIS), as well as collaborative activities in forest resources assessments, climate change policies, biodiversity protection and other areas. ICSU is a co-sponsor of the Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS), which includes the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS). Furthermore, the science and technology community is contributing significantly to the development of outlook studies in different regions of the world through econometric modelling and scenario techniques.

16. The science and technology community has been very active in assisting policy makers in relation to forest certification. Scientists have likewise been key in devising instruments and mechanisms related to common property regimes; they have made major contributions to climate change policies, to the efficient use of wood as a renewable resource for bio-energy, to incorporating forest aspects into rural or community development and tourism, including eco-tourism, and to devising economic or market instruments for biodiversity protection.

*The need for further contributions of the science and technology community in the future*

17. Further contributions by the science and technology community are needed in the future. Comparatively few contributions have been made in documenting the contribution of forests to the eradication of poverty, e.g. in the context of the water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (WEHAB) framework agreed upon at the Summit.

18. Further contributions are also needed with regard to illegal logging and trade and environment-related issues. In this area, science can help to assure that remedies do not impose hidden costs or disincentives, compounding the adverse impact of illegal logging.

19. Future supply and demand of wood and how they are (and should be) affected by environmental, economic and social constraints form another important topic area where the scientific community can make significant contributions. There are also new factors, such as the potential effect of environmental regulations on realizable supplies and the effect of expanding demand from such players as China in world markets. In developed countries, the result of increasing wealth and public participation has been a move towards greater emphasis on environmental objectives. The situation is different in many tropical countries, with deforestation and degradation of natural forest ecosystems continuing and uncertainty prevailing about whether, given technical and political constraints, plantations are in some instances capable of replacing, quantitatively and qualitatively, the range of goods and services supplied by natural forests.

20. An issue of rising importance is how taxation and subsidies (linked to internalizing non-market effects) conflict with free trade imperatives.

21. Overall, it seems important that the scientific and technical community should continue and enhance its contribution in addressing the economic aspects of forests, including the analysis of the costs and benefits of different options for policies, mechanisms for participation and community development, and revenue collection systems.

**Proposed actions for policy and decision makers**

22. Policy and decision makers are called upon to:

(a) Take into account the valuation of forest goods and services in developing forest policies. The scientific and technological community should provide scientific knowledge and technical support and carry out further research in support of these aims;

(b) Improve mechanisms to collect, store and disseminate sustainable forest management and market-related data. The scientific and technological community should generate and provide scientific knowledge and technical support for the enhanced provision of information available to all;

(c) Make best use of and further enhance the role of research into the use of economic and policy instruments to facilitate progress towards sustainable forest management and its trade-related aspects, especially in relation to poverty eradication, biodiversity and water protection, renewable materials and renewable energy provision, and climate change mitigation;

(d) Devise policies and instruments that increase the transparency of transactions and promote sustainable production and consumption of forest products. This is critical to improving fairness and equity in markets for forest products, while at the same time contributing to the overall goal of sustainable development. The scientific and technological community can help to design different policies options that are aimed at improving the current situation in both key areas.

## III. Substantive element "Forest health and productivity"

**Background: multiple factors influence forest health and productivity**

23. There are several factors involved in degrading forest capital in ecological, economic and social terms. Air pollution, climate change, forest fires, fragmentation of forests, pests and diseases, and invasive species are among those altered disturbance regimes that have a significant impact on forest health and productivity. Furthermore, forest management activities also influence forest health and productivity.

24. The relevant proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) give particular emphasis to air pollution as a major threat to forest health. Among the air pollutants affecting forest health at supra-national scales, tropospheric ozone ($O_3$) is the most pervasive. It can be anticipated that half of the world's forest will be exposed to damaging $O_3$ levels by 2100. Furthermore, in contrast to the decline in anthropogenic emissions of sulphur dioxide ($SO_2$) in North America and Europe, $SO_2$ emissions have been increasing in the rapidly developing countries of Asia, Africa, South and Central America. Southeast Asia now emits more sulphur into the atmosphere than either Europe or North America. At the same time, rainfall acidity arising from the oxidation of sulphur dioxide ($SO_2$) and nitrogen dioxide ($NO_2$) has not improved and acidification potential has remained nearly the same, including in northern countries. The increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) concentrations are a main cause of climate change, but are also beneficial to forests.

25. Against the backdrop of changing atmospheric chemistry, there is clear evidence that the world's physical climate is changing. The consensus view among international experts is that anthropogenic influences from outside forestry are strongly implicated.

26. Air pollution has induced changes in tree condition, tree physiology and biogeochemical cycling. It has also lowered tree resistance to insects and disease and affected the function of diverse forest types. Evidence was found in Central Europe already in the 1960s, but no relation was seen in other regions at that time. However, careful retrospective analysis shows that we have not always been successful in relating forest health to air pollution. One of the disadvantages of national and super-national monitoring schemes is "averaging" across regions, leading to a minimization of local changes in tree condition. There has been a tendency to report at these regional scales and, thus, to downplay the importance of point sources. Case studies remain vital to improving the knowledge base and to developing new indicators.

**Critical issues**

27. Forest health has been defined as "a condition of forest ecosystems that sustains their complexity while providing for human needs". However, it is well accepted that forests respond to stressors in a dynamic and multi-directional way. Stress responses typically become visible in sensitive individuals, then cascade from leaf to branch, to tree, and, ultimately, to the stand and ecosystem levels. Underlying these responses are, therefore, changes in the uptake and allocation of carbon, water and nutrient resources. Currently-used definitions of forest health are likely inadequate to quantify these cause and effect linkages. There is a need, therefore, to develop a universally accepted definition for forest health that incorporates essential processes for which quantifiable endpoints can be measured.

28. During the past decades, developed countries have instituted control programmes to reduce emissions of primary air pollutants and precursor emissions for secondary pollutants such as ozone. Progress has also been made in the evolution of air quality protocols under the Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and in regional cooperation in monitoring air pollution and its effects among countries in South and South-East Asia. However, limitations to the strength of such programmes accrue from the sampling design adopted. The systematic nature of plot selection may not provide a representative sample of the forests. Data quality is also an issue of concern in crown condition assessment and the spatial and temporal comparability of data. In addition, it is clear that such programmes must be accompanied by supplemental process-oriented investigations that more thoroughly test cause and effect relationships among the stresses and responses of both forests and the biogeochemical processes that sustain them.

29. Finally, it should be re-emphasized that, apart from air pollution, there are many other factors of global or regional significance that are involved in degrading forest health and productivity. As emerging issues, these altered disturbance regimes should receive further attention from forest policy and decision makers in the future.

**Role and contribution of the science and technology community**

30. Considerable effort has been devoted to enhancing understanding of forest responses to air pollutants by means of international science and technology cooperation and through state-of-science reports and sponsorship of workshops on forest health and productivity. Much work remains, however, to be done in scaling up to landscape in the context of multiple stressors, and in the transfer of generated knowledge.

31. The role of the science and technology community must continue to be, first and foremost, to accelerate understanding of system responses through the investigation of essential processes sustaining health. Secondly, the community must use knowledge from case studies to develop scientifically defensible indicators specific to the stressor of concern. Thirdly, effort put into risk assessment and modelling of outcomes must be enhanced. Fourthly, against the background of decreasing funding levels, the community must demonstrate cost-benefit (improving forest health) from the investments made in emission control and monitoring.

**Proposed actions for policy and decision makers**

32. Policy and decision makers are called upon to:

(a) Adopt a universally accepted definition for forest health, one that incorporates essential processes and for which quantifiable endpoints can be measured. To this end, the following definition is proposed for consideration:

"Forest health is a measure of its capacity to supply and allocate water, nutrients and energy in ways that increase or maintain ecosystem productivity while maintaining resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses";

(b) Use appropriate approaches to assess forest health in order to improve detection of change over the medium to long term in response to natural and anthropogenic stressors. To this end, the scientific and technological community should generate and provide scientific knowledge and technology, addressing the broad range of factors involved in degrading forest health and productivity.

## IV. Substantive element "Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs"

**Background**

33. With a total estimated area of 3,870 million ha worldwide, forests cover about one third of the Earth's land area. They shelter a major part of terrestrial biological diversity and play an important role in providing a potential sink and source for the carbon cycle and in regulating the global climate system through regulating the water cycle. Net primary productivity of forests and other wooded land is estimated to be over half of global terrestrial net primary productivity. As a renewable resource, forests provide a multitude of goods and services for the socio-economic well-being of society, contributing to the livelihood of the rural poor and the eradication of poverty.

34. However, forests and their ability to meet present and future needs are subject to diverse anthropogenic influences creating substantive pressures, such as the continuing expansion of agricultural and pastoral land into tropical rain forests and the strong pressure created by the need for fuel wood in tropical dry forests, both driven primarily by the poverty of local communities. Furthermore, increasing urbanization and mobility of society create new pressures, in particular on temperate forests, such as commuter traffic from suburban areas into urban centres, and tourist activities, etc.

35. Forest ecosystems serve as an important refuge area for many species and communities. They shelter an estimated 80 per cent of all terrestrial species. While some of these species and communities are known, others are still unknown. Several groups of animals (insects, birds, etc.) move between the so-called wild forest compartment and the so-called cultivated agricultural and pastoral compartment. Destruction of these forest compartments can not only impact these movements, but can also disrupt the biological equilibrium in agriculture, such as that between pests and crops. Hence, forest ecosystems need to be preserved for both the conservation of forest biological diversity and the sustainability of the surrounding landscape mosaic.

**Crucial issues**

36. In order to be able to maintain the capacity of forests to meet the needs of present and future generations, deliberation mechanisms have to be applied that make it possible to integrate the various societal values and needs into policy decisions. Depending on each country's social and legal system, particular emphasis should be given to policy deliberation and negotiation processes that build on mechanisms for the participation of a diverse range of stakeholders. Furthermore, there is a need to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with other sectors, such as agriculture, energy, transportation and tourism.

37. Forest ecosystems are particularly sensitive to anthropogenic factors at the geographic margins of biomes/ecotones, such as forest/savanna limits, savanna/desert limits, upper limits of trees in mountains and the northern limit of boreal forests (permafrost). At these margins rare populations, species, communities and forest types are at the limits of their geographic ranges and often at the limits of their eco-physiological adaptations. However, these rare species add significantly to the species richness and other aspects of biodiversity in such areas. Furthermore, these margins are areas of active evolution. Special efforts should be made, therefore, to maintain viable populations of the rare species in the interests of maintaining biodiversity.

38. Particular emphasis should also be given to the impacts of various forestry practices on forest ecosystems. For instance, clear-cutting normally has a detrimental effect on late-successional and old-growth forest types composed of long-lived, shade-tolerant trees and associated/dependant species. However, these late-successional forest types are recognized as an important component of forest biodiversity. It is a major challenge to develop and implement harvesting and silvicultural practices that protect vulnerable species and forest types in order to maintain the natural diversity of native forest cover types.

39. Due consideration should be given to the question how to make best use of and apply the expertise developed by the forest sector in plantation forestry in the specific context of creating forest environments that serve as a "nurse crop" for the ecological restoration of naturally regenerating native species and forest types. Considerable progress has been made in understanding how to establish forest cover on barren land and how to nurture these plantations to maturity. In applying this expertise in plantation forestry, it is a major challenge to develop restoration protocols aimed at re-establishing native species and forest types in order to develop self-sustaining (e.g., late-successional) forest cover types that meet present and future needs. Forest research contributes significantly to the development of a better understanding of the use, advantages, and also disadvantages, of planted forests as a tool for forest ecosystem restoration.

**Role and contribution of the scientific and technological community**

40. The scientific and technological community constantly improves scientific knowledge about the role and function of forests, e.g. in relation to biodiversity conservation, and promotes the transfer of such knowledge to policy and decision makers and practitioners. Reference can be made, for example, to the most recent scientific contributions of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) to a Forum intersessional expert meeting on the theme "The role of planted forests in sustainable forest management: maximizing planted forests" and the

background paper prepared by IUFRO for the multi-stakeholder dialogue at the second session of the Forum.

41. Based on the scientific understanding about the roles and functions of forests, the scientific and technological community contributes to the development and improvement of forest resource monitoring and assessment tools and mechanisms. Significant progress has been made in the further development of remote-sensing technologies and their application for monitoring in conjunction with ground-based measurements. The scientific and technological community also contributes to informing stakeholders about the state of forests and forest cover in terms of quantity and quality.

42. However, there continues to be a clear role for the scientific and technological community in helping to identify forest types and species at risk and about the impacts of forestry practices. It must still be considered a major challenge to develop and implement harvesting and silvicultural practices that protect vulnerable species and forest types in order to maintain the natural diversity of native forest cover types.

**Proposed actions for policy and decision makers**

43. Policy and decision makers are called upon to:

(a) Strengthen dialogue and cooperation with other sectors, such as agriculture, energy, transportation and tourism, in order to address more effectively the diverse anthropogenic influences creating substantive pressures on forests;

(b) Make best use of and support the further development of scientific knowledge about the role and function of forests and the impacts of forestry practices on these functions; in particular, support the further development of scientific knowledge about the impacts of forest practices on maintaining forest biological diversity;

(c) Further enhance and improve the monitoring and assessment of forest resources in particular in those regions where there is a lack of forest data; for this purpose, make the best use of research and technology, including remote-sensing technologies in conjunction with ground-based measurements, and take strong measures to build and further develop the capacity needed for forest resource monitoring and assessment.

## V. Means of implementation: technology transfer and capacity-building for sustainable forest management

**Background**

44. New scientific knowledge and technology is generated by universities and research organizations throughout the world. Use of current scientific knowledge and technologies are key to promoting and implementing sustainable forest management. The transfer of innovations to potential users requires strategies and investment by multiple stakeholders in order to realize the use of new concepts, information, and technologies.

**Scientific information and knowledge as innovations**

45. Forest-related innovations are made up of complex sets of information. Scientific credibility is a defining characteristic of such information. Before innovations are adopted, they must be understood by potential users. One way to help them understand complex information is to define the information itself as a product in the context of issues. Information should, therefore, be described in terms of its forest management or policy implications. Related products should be developed and packaged so that they are readily understood and support each other for the purpose of effective applications.

46. The transfer of scientific information can be facilitated when potential users serve as advisers and participants in the research process. Users have a vested interest in assuring that research products meet their needs, and they can help develop, test, and demonstrate innovations. The challenge in this participatory process is for the scientific and technological community to maintain its integrity and objectivity in close proximity to the desires of potential users.

47. Scientific knowledge related to forests is often built over many decades and, as unintended consequences of innovations sometimes emerge, an adaptive approach to implementation can be crucial. The challenge for the transfer of scientific information is to develop ongoing continuity and context setting, requiring significant dedication on the part of science and research organizations and innovation users to the overall benefit to forests and society.

**Technologies and intellectual property rights**

48. Users can enhance the diffusion of technologies, particularly if they are involved in product development, demonstration, testing and training. Developers have an added incentive for ensuring the application of their innovations when they can be patented. Private industry can ensure widespread use of products through licensing agreements. The protection of intellectual property rights needs to be understood in accordance with relevant international and domestic laws. Concessional and preferential terms as mutually agreed upon can be used as appropriate to facilitate the transfer of technologies among countries, with particular benefit to developing countries. However, the rights of indigenous peoples must be acknowledged and the value of traditional knowledge recognized.

49. The Internet has provided increased awareness of new technologies, concepts, scientific findings and economic information related to forests, forest health and productivity and forest cover to meet present and future needs. The Internet can provide information to new users around the world and improve communications with current users. The Internet also provides means for involving users in the development and delivery of innovations. A challenge for forest-related organizations is to provide easy access, navigation and searching capabilities for users to locate the information and technologies they need. Efforts to develop Internet-based global information systems and networks need, therefore, to be well recognized and supported.

50. One-on-one communication and consultation is often the most effective way to help potential users to come to a decision on using an innovation. Demonstrations are particularly important in transferring innovations related to forest management.

Workshops and courses are learning events that allow participants to receive information in a way that provides context and detail.

**Building capacity**

51. Given the importance of technology transfer activities for the successful application of innovations and new knowledge at the field level, considerable capacities are needed on the part of scientists and researchers in order to make meaningful contributions to technology transfer processes. Although basic science education must remain as the foundation of research, greater emphasis is now being given to skills and capacities required for technology transfer in all its aspects. Exemplary reference can be made in this context to the work of Centre de Recherche et d'Action pour le Développement Durable en Afrique Centrale (CERAD), which aims to promote the development of scientific knowledge with regard to natural resource management and the use of that knowledge to improve the conditions of the rural poor forest communities in the field.

52. In line with these developments, the forest-related scientific and technological community has been carrying out various activities aimed at expanding and fostering research capacity in developing and economically disadvantaged countries. IUFRO's special programme for developing countries currently develops and offers training modules that are intended to help in consolidating and increasing scientists' knowledge and skills in order to participate in technology transfer activities. CERAD participates in activities on building the capacity of environmental and forestry schools in Central Africa with regard to participatory management of natural resources, indigenous peoples' rights, co-management of forests and fisheries and the development of forestry research in Central Africa.

53. Transfer of technology can also be facilitated by mixing practitioners and scientists from the very start of a project or technology development process. This is particularly relevant in the field of criteria and indicators, auditing of sustainable forest management and forest certification. Currently, training modules in these fields are being developed with special emphasis on skills needed by scientists to successfully participate in criteria and indicators processes, act as auditors of sustainable forest management and/or assist in developing forest certification schemes and their implementation.

54. Another challenge in technology transfer is associated with the access and dissemination of information. Following the call for greater integration and sharing of information at the global scale, the development of the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) has been initiated. In order to enhance participation of developing countries scientists in GFIS, SPDC provides support to research institutions in the establishment of the system and training of staff. In a broader context, new training modules are being developed that focus on the use of modern information technology in forest research and technology transfer so that scientists apply these information technology tools in their day-to-day work.

**Proposed actions for policy and decision makers**

55. Policy and decision makers are called upon to:

(a) Promote the diffusion of key information and technology to the full array of potential users and support efforts to strengthen multi-directional communication,

partnership, networking and participation between developers and potential users of innovations in the context of the benefit or outcome desired, including through North-North, North-South and South-South cooperation and partnerships;

(b) Expand the definition of potential users to include organizations, communities, and individuals in different countries, including developing countries, and strongly promote the use of global Internet systems related to forests as a key method for disseminating information in order to create awareness of innovations across the world;

(c) Further strengthen and support capacity-building in forest higher education and research and transfer of technology, including through North-North, North-South and South-South cooperation and partnerships, aiming at a better diffusion of innovative ideas and new knowledge for implementation at the field level.

## VI. National forest programmes — procedural aspects and supporting factors

### Background

56. The international forest policy dialogue since UNCED 1992 has agreed on actions to promote the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, in short: sustainable forest management. Many of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests refer to national forest programmes for their implementation.

### Crucial issues

57. In its essence, a national forest programme is a political planning instrument for ensuring sustainable forest management by making substantive contributions to (i) economic aspects of forests, including the role of forests in poverty eradication; (ii) forest health and productivity; and (iii) the maintenance of the forest cover to meet present and future needs. This is to be accomplished by a new paradigm of governance, based on interconnecting policy networks instead of hierarchical governance by the State; public participation of all relevant actors and stakeholders in the planning and communication process instead of technocratic decision-making; adaptive, open-ended and iterative learning processes instead of deterministic goal achievement; and comprehensive, holistic and intersectoral coordination of political actors, making sure that all sectors affecting forestry and affected by forestry are considered and externalities are internalized.

58. Essential preconditions for the success of policy networks are communication and trust among the actors. They provide additional informal linkages through information, persuasion, experience and so on, and thereby help produce the collectively desired outcome. Furthermore, the members agree on specific rules, norms and values for achieving the common goal. There is agreement on the basic elements of which a number serve in the resolution of specific coordination problems (e.g., public participation, intersectoral coordination, adaptive and iterative planning). National forest programmes are substantive if they fulfil the

basic elements and contribute to sustainable forest management; otherwise, they are symbolic.

**Role and contribution of the scientific and technological community**

59. The main objective of the scientific and technological community is to provide policy makers with approved means for formulating and implementing national forest programmes. Though there is broad consensus on the desirability of a national forest programme for anticipatory regulation of conflicting economic, ecological and social interests in forests at the national level, many questions remain on how to proceed in detail.

60. In order to voice and answer these questions, a collaborative research action addressing national forest programmes in a European context and involving 21 European countries was launched in 1999. As there is no operational definition of a national forest programme, the research action focused on the main elements of national forest programmes, such as public participation, intersectoral coordination and adaptive and iterative planning, and developed a series of propositions on the impact of various internal factors (characteristics of participants, process characteristics and content characteristics) and external factors (political culture, ownership structure, financial incentives, legal aspects, etc.) on national forest programmes. Some of these factors can be modified by the intervention of relevant policy makers in the short- or medium-term (e.g., a number of participants in the national forest programme process), others cannot (e.g., the fragmentation of forest ownership or the organization of forest owners). This kind of information enables actors of national forest programme processes to assess which levers can be manipulated in order to influence national forest programme processes in the desired direction, e.g. to achieve substantive national forest programmes instead of solely symbolic processes and outputs.

**Proposed action for policy and decision makers**

61. Policy and decision makers are called upon to:

Make best use of scientific knowledge and the results of recent research when formulating and implementing national forest programmes; in particular, take due account of the results of scientific work concerning the influence of external factors as well as actors, procedural aspects and the expected content of substantive national forest programme processes.

## VII. Monitoring, assessment and reporting

**Background**

62. Monitoring, assessment and reporting is one of the principal functions of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). Overall, monitoring, assessment and reporting aim to facilitate informed decision-making on forest policy and management. In the particular context of the Forum, monitoring and assessing progress at the national, regional and global levels through reporting by Governments and by regional and international organizations, institutions and instruments aim to serve as a basis for the consideration of future actions needed.

63. The multi-year programme of work of the Forum specifies three different areas for monitoring, assessment and reporting: (1) progress in implementation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IPF/IFF) proposals for action; (2) progress towards sustainable forest management of all types of forests; and (3) review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests.

**Crucial issues**

64. Experience gained so far has contributed significantly to a more differentiated understanding about the different areas of monitoring, assessment and reporting, as identified in the multi-year programme of work, and the related policy instruments. When further considering this subject in the context of the Forum, a differentiation should be made between the three areas of monitoring, assessment and reporting, the different levels to which they apply and the different actors at which they are directed.

65. Monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress in the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action relate to progress achieved in implementation of international commitments by means of policy-related action, mainly by countries and at the national level, but also by other institutions such as international organizations. Many of the proposals for action of the IPF/IFF refer to national forest programmes which thus appear as an important means for their implementation. Consultations and deliberations are still under way to clarify the issue and to find effective mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting. This is despite the ongoing reporting, e.g. for the third session of the Forum, and the limited time span that is left for the Forum as such.

66. The recent country-led initiative on the theme "Lessons learned in monitoring, assessment and reporting on implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action" in March 2003 emphasized the importance of assessing and prioritizing the IPF/IFF proposals for action at the national level. Furthermore, it underlined the need to streamline and formalize monitoring, assessment and reporting on the IPF/IFF proposals for action and pointed out the importance for Governments to collaborate with stakeholders, including the private sector and NGOs, e.g. through national forest programmes.

67. The current emphasis on reducing reporting burdens for countries by streamlining reporting obligations and by intensifying efforts towards the development of common reporting formats and data collection mechanisms is important. Reference can be made in this context to the Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting established by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the initiatives taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development. Nevertheless, it should be kept in mind that reporting is not an end in itself. It is essential to devise mechanisms to transfer knowledge and experience and to enable learning from lessons of the past by all stakeholders. Furthermore, it is important to note that the follow-up on the implementation of political commitments made through monitoring, assessment and reporting, should not be confounded with monitoring progress achieved on the ground.

68. Regarding the second area of monitoring, assessment and reporting, i.e. progress towards sustainable forest management of all types of forests, the Forum stressed the importance of using the framework for criteria and indicators for

sustainable forest management as a basis for reporting. The international forest dialogue paved the way for the broad acceptance and application of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management as an instrument for monitoring, assessing and reporting on progress towards sustainable forest management at the national level, but increasingly also at the field-unit level. However, the recent International Conference on Criteria and Indicators for sustainable forest management concluded that countries are at different stages of developing, implementing and using criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. Nonetheless, the experts identified seven common thematic areas in the criteria, which are common to the nine criteria and indicators processes that currently exist, involving more than 150 countries worldwide.

69. The outcomes of the Conference pointed to a number of areas in which further efforts are required with regard to criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. It was concluded that the cost-effectiveness of monitoring, assessment and reporting activities related to sustainable forest management can be significantly enhanced by using existing mechanisms for data collection and reporting, e.g. in the context of the Global forest resource assessment. This aspect is of particular relevance for matching the country-level use of criteria and indicators with the international reporting requirements on sustainable forest management.

70. As another major aspect, the need for building capacity for national data collection, analysis and reporting has been underlined, in particular with regard to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It was noted that — despite decade-long efforts to compile data from national sources, notably in the context of the global forest resource assessment of FAO — only few countries are in a position to provide forest data owing to a lack of a permanent forest inventory.

71. Finally, the Forum identified the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests as the third area for monitoring, assessment and reporting. For this purpose, the Forum at its second session decided on specific review criteria.

**Role and contribution of the scientific and technological community**

72. The scientific and technological community has been at the onset of developing monitoring, assessment and reporting instruments for sustainable forest management. Reference can be made in this context to the activities of the former IUFRO task force on sustainable forestry and the various initiatives by CIFOR. In maintaining this active role, the scientific and technological community continues to provide scientific expertise for the development of approved means for monitoring, assessment and reporting at various levels, e.g. the further development and improvement of regional, national and subnational sets of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. Reference can be made to the scientific advice given to the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe concerning the development and improvement of the Pan-European Indicators for sustainable forest management.

73. The scientific and technological community also plays an important role in supporting the development of a common understanding of the forest-related terms, concepts and definitions that form the basis for international reporting. The "SilvaVoc Terminology Project" serves as a clearing house for multilingual forest terminology and promotes the development of an enhanced common understanding

of forest-related terms and definitions, their possible harmonization and proper use. By this means, the SilvaVoc Terminology Project also provides a basis for more coordinated and streamlined forest-related reporting to international conventions and organizations.

74. The recent International Conference on Criteria and Indicators meeting also gave strong emphasis to the need for improving the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for national data collection, analysis and reporting. The scientific and technological community contributes to this task through specific training measures. For example, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), the Tropical Agricultural Research and Training Center (CATIE) and the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), in technical cooperation with FAO, are currently preparing an expert meeting entitled "Capacity-building for forest scientists in Latin America in criteria and indicators, auditing of sustainable forest management and forest certification", to be held in May 2003 in Costa Rica. The results of the proposed expert consultation will help to design further training modules that are beneficial to scientists from developing countries and tailored to the regional context.

75. As another activity facilitating international efforts concerning monitoring, assessment and reporting, the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) has been established with the aim to serve as an Internet-based search engine using metadata to provide access to forest information. The resulting system serves as a resource discovery tool, providing multiple benefits to information users and providers including facilitating user-friendly access to a greater amount of forest-related information. Particular emphasis is placed on including developing countries in the service. The prototype of GFIS, launched in August 2002, consists of 12 nodes in Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe. The multi-host search engine is capable of performing search operations across a distributed network of metadata over available information resources.

76. Finally, the scientific and technological community has also been involved in several other multinational initiatives and processes related to monitoring, assessment and reporting, including the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization/Economic Commission for Europe Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000 and the United Nations-Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

**Proposed actions for policy and decision makers**

77. Forest policy and decision makers are called upon to:

(a) Make best use of scientific and technological expertise for the development of approved means for monitoring, assessment and reporting, including the scientific work addressing the concept of national forest programmes, the improvement of regional, national and subnational sets of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and monitoring, assessment and reporting related to policy commitments;

(b) Fully utilize the supporting role of the scientific and technological community in the enhancement of the common understanding and possible harmonization of forest-related terms and definitions; and to recognize the role of

science and technology in facilitating the compilation and storage of forest-related data and information and in providing access to forest information;

(c) Make best use of and further support the role of the scientific and technological community in improving the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for national data collection, analysis and reporting.

## VIII. Final considerations and conclusions

**78. Science and technology are essential factors for the successful implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action as well as the Forum's multi-year programme of work and plan of action. Policy and decision makers are therefore called upon to make best use of available science and technology and take fully into account the proposed actions related to "economic aspects of forests", including "trade", "forest health and productivity" and "maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs".**

**79. However, enhancing the scientific and technological community's capacity to contribute to sustainable development will also require significant changes. The scientific and technological community is committed to further strengthen its capacity to contribute to sustainable forest management and, thereby, to overall sustainable development. There is a need to provide more policy-relevant, problem-oriented research that addresses the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable forest management and their various linkages and interactions. To this end, the scientific and technological community is committed to further expand multidisciplinary research by means of increased networking and collaboration, bridging traditional disciplinary divides and crossing sectoral boundaries.**

**80. Furthermore, the scientific and technological community recognizes the need to build and enhance strong scientific and technological capacity in all regions of the world, including North-North, North-South and South-South cooperation and partnerships. Sharing of knowledge, information and technology based on widely available and affordable mechanisms constitutes a crucial task to this end. However, this has to build on appropriate support for the scientific and technological community, especially in the area of scientific and technological capacity-building.**

**81. Strong partnership between the scientific and technological community and other members of civil society, the private sector and Governments is of fundamental importance to further enhance the contribution of science and technology to achieving sustainable forest management, and to ensure policy relevant science. The scientific and technological community is committed to implementing necessary changes and developing appropriate partnerships. Reference can be made in this context to the contributions of the scientific and technological community to the multi-stakeholder dialogues at the second session of the Forum and the Summit.**

**82. At the same time, the scientific and technological community needs to count on more sound and sustained financial support if it is to be successful in facing the challenges for the sustainable management of the world's forests. In particular, there is an urgent need to reverse the ongoing trend of reducing financing and investment in research and higher education, as observed, unfortunately, in an increasing number of countries around the world. Public and private inputs into science and technology should be seen primarily as an investment in forest-related socio-economic development and in preserving forests as natural life-support systems for present and future generations, rather than simply as research expenditures.**